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Sunday-school workers who are handling children of the kindergarten age.

Miss Rankin's lessons have been worked out in the laboratory Sunday school of Union Theological Seminary under the direction of Professor George A. Coe. The book contains helpful chapters on the characteristics of five-year-old children, music for beginners, story-telling for beginners, dramatic play, handwork, and other equipment and activities. A feature of the method is the weekly letter which the child is to take home to his parents. Topics center around a few essential principles of childhood religion, helpfulness, obedience, loving, giving, sharing, and the like. The book is very attractively illustrated with photographs from actual Sunday-kindergarten experience. This volume belongs to the general series of textbooks for the Sunday school published by Charles Scribner's Sons.

An Introduction to Early Church History, Being a Survey of the Relations of Christianity and Paganism in the Early Roman Empire.

By R. Martin Pope. New York: Macmillan, 1918. Pp. vii+163. \$1.25.

This small book consists of a series of paragraphs with topical headings designed to sketch the history of Christianity down to Constantine. The author aims to present only a mere outline or, better, a series of impressions, which he hopes will meet the needs of those readers who desire to possess the main features of a development which culminated in the acceptance of Christianity as an imperial religion. The propriety of attempting to embrace so large a field in so brief a monograph might easily be questioned.

Altruism: Its Nature and Varieties. By George Herbert Palmer. New York: Scribner, 1919. Pp. ix+138. \$1.25.

With that delightful and kindly insight into human behavior which marks Professor Palmer's method of ethical analysis, the present little volume brings the charm of literature as well as the satisfactions of scientific exposition. Altruism—so inexplicable when the individual is considered as a self-contained unit—ceases to be a mystery when the essentially social character of man is considered. Nevertheless altruism needs to be morally defined and controlled. Good manners make us social beings; giving enables us to put part of our life into others; partnership in a business or a society enables one to say "we"; love obliterates distinctions of mine and thine; but only in justice do we find the complete social ideal. All other forms of altruism are defective at some point. Justice is "impartial love of our fellow-

man." The book abounds in shrewd observations on and criticisms of everyday behavior. It is an alluring example of fine humanism.

Democratizing Theology. By Herbert Alden Youtz. Boston: Pilgrim Press, 1919. Pp. 39. \$0.25.

This stirring address, delivered before the Ohio State Congregational Conference, is a plea for religious thinking which shall be dominated by the spiritual ideals which inspire the movement for democracy. Three tyrannies, against which a democratic theology must protest, are discussed—the Tyranny of Orthodoxy, the Tyranny of Mechanism, and the Tyranny of Externalism. A free theology has for its task the establishment of the art of spiritual self-control and the affirmation of a moral meaning in the process of history. Without the message of Christian faith there can be no sublime interpretation of the world in which modern men must live.

A Survey of Religious Education in the Local Church. By William Clayton Bower. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1919. Pp. xv+177. \$1.25.

This title may easily mislead, for Professor Bower is not offering a bird's-eye view of religious education in a church; he is showing just why and how a careful, analytical survey should be made. There are many who, ignorant of modern survey technique, are playing with this catchword; here is a revelation for them if they will read. The world of religious education is grateful to Professor Bower for filling a vacancy in its methodology and for presenting so carefully and in such detail the principles of the survey and the manner of its exact use in a church. On the program that he provides a church may find a factual basis for its educational work.

God's Responsibility for the War. By Edward S. Drown. New York: Macmillan, 1919. Pp. 56. \$0.60.

The discussion of the specific question proposed in the title takes place against the background of a larger topic, namely, the problem of evil in the light of the divine omnipotence. God is a moral being whose essence is creative love. Therefore he must work out his purposes in a universe of free sons of God. He is limited, therefore, in such ways as are consistent with his moral purpose. Such limitation brings far greater power than the static omnipotence often ascribed to him. He cannot do anything that involves a moral contradiction. God lets man co-operate with him in producing a moral